

Notice of Public Hearing
LSA Document #10-349**Notice of Public Hearing**

Under [IC 4-22-2-24](#), notice is hereby given that on October 19, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. EDT, at the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Conference Center Room C, Indianapolis, Indiana, the Department of Child Services will hold a public hearing on a proposed new rule, [465 IAC 2-1.5](#), to establish requirements for licensing of foster family homes for children under [IC 31-27-4](#), including qualifications of the foster family, physical facilities of the foster family home, care of children placed for foster care in a foster family home, and training of foster parents and to repeal the current foster family home licensing rule, [465 IAC 2-1](#).

The proposed rule revises and updates the foster home licensing standards in the current rule, which has not been amended or updated since 1947, to conform to current standards recommended by national child welfare organizations, current department policies, and licensing rules and policies in effect in other states. The department expects that the rule will have insignificant cost effects on the foster family homes and will not impose regulatory requirements that are not currently reflected in department policies or that are necessary to meet standards currently appropriate for care of children in foster care.

In compliance with [IC 4-22-2-24\(d\)\(3\)](#), the department advises that it has consulted and utilized information from various sources, including, but not limited to, the following, in determining that the requirements of this proposed rule concerning licensing of foster family homes in Indiana are necessary and appropriate:

- (1) Licensing information obtained from the corresponding rules and policies of other states, particularly including Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas, and Utah.
- (2) Publication of National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning at the Hunter College School of Social Work, summary of state policies, titled "Licensing of Foster Family Homes", last updated April 11, 2007.
- (3) Publication of National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning at the Hunter College School of Social Work, titled "Smoking Policies for Foster Parents", last updated June 5, 2008.
- (4) Department policies contained in the Indiana Child Welfare Manual Chapter 8 (Out-of-Home Services) and Chapter 12 (Foster Family Home Licensing).
- (5) Indiana Association of Residential Child Caring Agencies (IARCCA) Board of Coordination, 1996 draft foster care regulations.

Copies of the proposed rule, documents (2), (3), and (5) described above, and Internet links to the rules and policies of the states listed in subdivision (1) above, that the department consulted relating to the requirements imposed by this rule, may be inspected and copied at the offices of the department as stated below. The department policies referenced in subdivision (4) above may be inspected and downloaded on the department's website at <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2354.htm> or may be requested at the offices of the department.

Any interested persons may attend the public hearing and present comments on the proposed rule. Written statements are encouraged and preferred and will be included in the hearing record, without the necessity for personal attendance at the hearing. Written statements may be submitted before or at the time of the hearing. Questions, comments, or prehearing written statements may be forwarded to the following mailing address or by e-mail:

Mail address:

Jeffrey M. Lozer, General Counsel
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Copies of these rules are now on file at the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Room E306 and Legislative Services Agency, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N201, Indianapolis, Indiana and are open for public inspection.

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